

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government by exporting cars to those countries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) India has been exporting cars (Passenger cars including jeeps) to Australia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Ghana, France, Jordan, Kenya, Malta, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mali, Nigeria, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, UAE and USA.

(b) Provisional export of passenger cars including jeep, during the last three years is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value (in Rs. Crores)</i>
1988-89	21.68
1989-90	52.74
1990-91	41.32

Rules for import of cars

361. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have modified the rules for the import of cars; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the modification and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rules have been modified as a measure of simplification of the procedure for the import of cars by specified categories of persons. These persons will now be eligible to import cars under OGL on the other hand import duty will be paid in foreign

exchange. The details, in this regard, are contained in ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 197 -ITC (PN)/ 90-93 dated 16.8.91 and OCI order No. 68/90-93 dated 16.8.1991, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Rise In Circulation of Notes

362. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp rise in circulation of notes during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the month-wise figures of notes in circulation during the above months; and

(d) the impact of increase in circulation of notes on economy and prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The expansion in notes in circulation during the last six months (i.e. 26.4.91 to 25.10.91) has been much less than the increases in the comparable periods of two previous years.

(b) Questions does not arise.

(c) The month-wise figures of notes in circulation during the above months are as under:

<i>Last Friday of respective month</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. Crores)</i>
April. 26, 1991.	56,162
May. 31, 1991.	58,627
June. 28, 1991.	57.858
July. 26, 1991.	55,468
Aug. 30, 1991.	54,131
Sept. 27, 1991.	53,628
Oct. 25, 1991.	56,606

(d) An assessment of impact of monetary factors on the economy or prices has to be based on changes in broad monetary aggregates rather changes in notes in circulation.

[Translation]

Rise in Price Index

363. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage rise in the price index from July 1, 1991 to first week of November, 1991;

(b) the rise in the price index in the same period during the last Five years; and

(c) the steps being by the Government of the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b). The percentage rise in Wholesale Price Index from first week of July to the first week of November, during the current year and the last five years is given below:

Year	Increase in Wholesale Price Index (Base: 1981-82=100) (from 1st week of July to 1st week of November)
1986	1.36
1987	4.28
1988	1.10
1989	3.01
1990	3.36
1991	3.36

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to check the price rise include a substantial reduction in fiscal deficit, check on expansion of money supply to curb effective demand, more effective management of supply and demand of essential commodities, Streamlining of the Public Distribution System, providing incentives for higher production and savings and strict action against hoarders and profiteers.

Opening of Branches by Foreign Banks

364. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to grant permission to foreign Banks for opening their branches in India under the new economic policy ; and

(b) if so, the names of the banks which have permission for opening their branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The statutory powers in terms of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for issue of licence for carrying on banking business in India vest with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). All applications for grant of permission to foreign banks for opening branches in India are examined by RBI keeping in view the provisions of Banking Regulation Act.

(b) It will not be in public interest at this stage to disclose names of foreign banks seeking permission to open branches in India.